

## **LDEQ ISSUES AIR QUALITY ADVISORY FOR THURSDAY, MAY 4 FOR THE BATON ROUGE AND NEW ORLEANS AREAS**

Wednesday, light northeasterly winds will limit dispersion as a ridge of high pressure at the surface moves across the Bayou State. In addition, sunny skies and highs in the low- to mid-80s will support ozone production. Therefore, AQI levels will be low- to mid-Moderate in most cities. Thursday, as the surface high pressure system moves east toward Alabama and a low pressure system develops in the lee of the Rockies, light southerly winds will develop across the Bayou State, limiting dispersion. In addition, mostly sunny skies and highs near 90F will enhance ozone production. Furthermore, lingering agricultural smoke will contribute to ozone precursors. These conditions will result in Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups AQI levels in Baton Rouge and New Orleans, and Moderate AQI levels for the rest of the state. Friday, clouds and scattered thunderstorms will limit ozone development across Louisiana as increasing southerly winds aid dispersion. However, smoke from agricultural burning in southern Mexico may impact western portions of the state. These conditions will lead to low-Moderate AQI levels for western Louisiana, and Good to high-Good AQI levels elsewhere.

This area includes East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, Iberville, Livingston, Ascension and Pointe Coupee parishes. The weather conditions will be favorable for the formation of ozone. It also includes the New Orleans area.

The Air Quality Index indicates that ozone will be at the orange level, which is Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups. Increasing ozone levels may cause unhealthy air quality during afternoon hours. Active children and adults, the elderly and people with respiratory diseases, such as asthma, should avoid prolonged outdoor activities and exertion.

Area residents are encouraged to take one or more of the following voluntary actions to help reduce the formation of ozone:

- Drive less. Carpool, walk and bike, combine errands and care for your car. Be sure your gas cap is on tight.
- Refuel your vehicle, mow grass and use gas powered lawn equipment and off road vehicles after 6 p.m.
- Postpone chores that use oil based paint, varnishes and solvents that produce flame.
- If you barbecue, use an electric starter instead of starter fluid.
- Take your lunch to work or walk to lunch.
- Conserve energy in your home.

Incorporating these tips into your daily routines can make a significant difference. We all have a stake in better air quality.

